(b) The amount released year-wise under the Programme Aimed at Technological Self-Reliance (PATSER) Scheme implemented through Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, during the Eighth Five Year Plan is as under :-

Year	(Rs. in cores)
1992-93	1.69
1993-94	2.17
1994-95	6.01
1995-96	3.59
1996-97	6.47
Total	19.93

(c) to (e) Several initiatives have been taken to provide incentives and support measures such as Income Tax Relief on R & D expenditure, Weighted Tax Deducation for Sponsored Research, Customs Duty Exemption to Research Institution, Non-Commercial Scientific and Industrial Research Organisations, Five Year Tax Holiday to Commercial R & D Companies, Excise Duty Waiver, Accelerated Depreciation Allowance, Technology Development Fund, Direct Funding of R & D Projects in Industry by Government Departments, National Awards for R & D for Outstanding Achievements, and Commercialisation of Public Funded R & D.

Demonstration-cum-Training Centre

1692. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Silk Board has established a Demonstration-cum-Training Centre at Sualkuchi in Assam to demonstrate the improved silk reeling;

(b) if so, the number of persons trained so far at the said Training Centre; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make people aware that such a Training Centre is functioning at Sualkuchi?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Demonstration-cum-Training Centre (DCTC) to train silk reelers and reelers-cum-weavers in improved techniques of silk reeling and spinning along with a post-cocoon Technical Service Centre has been established at Sualkuchi.

(b) A total of 351 persons have been trained so far in the improved technologies of silk reeling and spinning at this training centre.

(c) The following steps have been taken by Central Silk Board to ensure that the people are aware of such a training centre at Sualkuchi :-

(i) One large-scale demonstration covering the improved muga silk reeling technology improved technology of weaving, degumming and dyeing and five demonstrations on improved version of tasar and maga reeling machines and improved degumming/dyeing technology and the recipe used for degumming and dyeing were organised in Sualkuchi in March 1997.

(ii) Survey on silk reeling and weaving units by visiting each unit.

(iii) Testing and quality assessment of cocoons and raw silk tendered by reelers and weavers.

All these activities have given wide publicity about the functioning of both the DCTC and post cocoon Technical Service Centre.

Advertisement for VDIS

1693. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE:

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a high-profile advertisement campaign about the tax amnesty scheme as part of the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) announced in the 1997-98 budget;

(b) if so, whether the publicity campaign for VDIS likely to be assigned to private advertisement agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the expenditure proposed to be involved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. The government has launched a multimedia publicity campaign for creating greater public awareness on the features and opportunities offered by the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997.

(b) and (c) The publicity of this Scheme has been entrusted to two leading private agencies after evaluating their technical merit and competence. The multimedia publicity would cover advertisements/publicity through newspapers, TV, magazines, posters, direct malling, tele marketing etc. The total cost of the multimedia publicity would be approximately Rs. 30 Crores.

[Translation]

Development of Tea Gardens

1694. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :